

February 2002

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Recommended Citation

Editor (2002) "And They Were There -- Reports of Meetings -- China Society of Library Science's 2001 Annual Conference," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 29.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3153>

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And They Were There — Reports of Meetings

China Society of Library Science's 2001 Annual Conference

Column Editor: **Sever Bordeianu** (University of New Mexico) <sbordeia@unm.edu>

China Society of Library Science's (CSLS) 2001 Annual Conference

September 25-29, 2001, Chengdu, China

Report by **Hu Ming Rong** and **Yuan Haiwang**

China Society of Library Science's 2001 Annual Conference was Focused on Library Digitization. From September 25 through 29, 2001, *China Society of Library Science (CSLS)* held its 2001 annual conference in Chengdu, a renowned cultural city in Southwest China. 700 librarians from all over the country, as well as from the United States and Japan attended the conference.

At the opening ceremony presided over by the CSLS's secretary-general **Ms. Sun Peixin**, representatives of the American and Japanese participants extended their congratulations to the conference. They were followed by **Mr. Zhou Heping**, Deputy Minister of the Cultural Department of the Chinese Government. With a brief review of the past year's achievements that Chinese libraries had made, **Mr. Zhou** unfolded future plans for expanding libraries and their services. **Professor Yuan Zhengguang**, a keynote speaker from the Chinese Science and Technology Lecturing Team, shared his insights on China's entry into the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. He pointed out, "WTO is a legal system where every member is playing by its rules. It is oriented towards regulations rather than special interests. Therefore, the entry of WTO calls for changes of the Chinese mind-set." **Professor Yuan's** remarks were an eye-opener to the Chinese attendees amazed at his outspokenness.

The conference had five tracks on such topics as (1) roles that


libraries may play in the strategic development of China's western regions; (2) sharing of library resources; (3) stud-



Devils Advocate from page 74

do? It might be time to buy a typewriter.

More serious, though, is the danger to our records and the progress that the notion of intellectual property is to foster. These records will be less accessible and less preservable and research in areas will be abridged. Already, reviews of software are constrained by the producers who can choose to deny permission to review software. Satirical works have been suppressed as has history. The ability to comment on books, doubtless will follow. Without free inquiry, progress—the point of this whole business—will be stunted. I commend to your attention **Lawrence Lessig's** essay, "The Internet Under Siege" for a fuller account of many of these issues.¹⁷

In the new digital reality almost everyone will be worse off—but not everyone. It will be interesting to see if those attempting to control the middle ground can pull these plans off or whether computer users will rise up and fetch the tumbrels for them. 

ies, development, and construction of digital libraries; (4) library management and reform; (5) theoretical research of librarianship in the age of knowledge.

Presenters in the first track emphasized the change of paradigms and the establishment of necessary mechanisms such as assumption of responsibility for library projects, prioritization of resources, acquisition of funding, and competition for talents. The consensus was: only by engaging in digitization and networking could libraries in the nation's western regions jump on the nation's bandwagon of "Developing the West" campaign to achieve rapid improvements. Some presenters were convinced that collaboration between libraries in the relatively developed eastern regions and the western backyard could bring information services into full play in the strategic campaign of developing the western regions.

In the second track, librarians discussed library resource sharing in light of the age of knowledge economy. Information technology marked by computer networking and the Internet gave rise to new trends in the area of document delivery and sharing. They include the tremendous expansion of information coverage, and the emergence of interlibrary document sharing models enabling users to access information at the comfort of their homes. Nevertheless, the librarians did not lose sight of the difficulties lying ahead on the long road of resource sharing—the copyright legal hurdles, believing that it took time and hard work to find solutions.

The issues of studying, developing, and constructing digital libraries were at the center of the conference's focus. Many presenters in the third track addressed themselves to the roles and positions of digital libraries in the age of knowledge economy from different perspectives. They all agreed that China needed to construct digital libraries to meet the challenges of the new age. Digital libraries would cause information resources to be utilized and shared more efficiently, would further spur the development of the nation's information technology, offer brand new means of knowledge dissemination, and create virtual classrooms for citizens to acquire life-long learning. Some presenters believed that in the age of knowledge economy, information, knowledge and creativity had become decisive factors in economic development. In that regard, digital libraries would play an increasingly important role in the new economy, thus facilitating people's work, studies, and daily life.

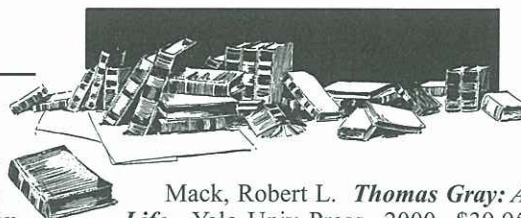
Apart from a track, the entire closing session of the Conference was also devoted to the discussion of digital libraries. Keynote speakers included **Mr. Zhang Fan**, CEO of **Wanfang Data**, a database service company; and **Zhou Bo**, Senior Engineer from the **Peking University Founder Group Corp.**, an eBook company; both were key players in the digitization industries of China. As **Mr. Zhang** detailed his company's solution to digital libraries' database issues, **Mr. Zhou** tackled the questions of copyright and high volume investment that digital libraries were facing. Invited to address the plenary was also **Mr. Niu Zhendong**, post doctorate of the College of Computer Science of **Carnegie Mellon University** and senior advisor to the **China Digital Library Inc.** **Mr. Niu** shared the experience of his involvement in the **Digital Library Initiative Phase 2 (DLI2)** projects in the United States.

Library management and reform was another hot topic. In the fourth track, presenters discussed initiatives in creating new service models, transitions from information management to knowledge management, future development of libraries in the age of knowledge economy, etc. Of all the speakers, **Mr. Wang Shiwei**, Associate

continued on page 76

Best Sellers — Biographies

by **Francoise Crowell** (Yankee Book Peddler)
<FCrowell@YBP.com>



As Americans we love to read about the rich and famous. Magazines such as *People* bring to our attention all the details we need (or not). Perfect reading while waiting at the dentist office. But whose lives interest us in academic circles? Whose lives populate our shelves under biography? The fifty top selling biographies at YBP this last year cross the disciplines, with the politicians certainly bringing in the highest number of votes. In this list are biographies of **Richard Nixon, Robert Kennedy, Madeline Albright, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Jimmy Carter, Al Gore, FDR, and John Adams**. Also here are big names that have definitely marked our century: **Lenin, Hitler and Gandhi**. As a Francophile I was happy to see three French writers, **Proust, Rimbaud, and Molière**, and one queen (**Marie Antoinette**.) But **Virginia Woolf** wins the prize with three top sellers and **Alan Greenspan** with two. My money is on biographies. Are these in your collection?

Lewis, David L. *W.E.B. Du Bois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century, 1919-1963*. Henry Holt 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0805025340.

And They Were There from page 75

Director of **Shanghai Library**, drew special attention with his report on his library's experience of personnel reform. As personnel management in Chinese libraries posed serious problems, the successful story of **Wang's** library gave rise to heated discussions and exchanges of questions and responses.

Theoretical studies of librarianship were the topic of the fifth track. Presenters argued that with the exponential advancement of information technology, digitized documents were gradually replacing traditional ones. Therefore, theoretical studies of librarianship must pay great attention to the studies of digital libraries.

During the conference, several workshops were organized, including an introduction to the **International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)** and approaches on how to write research papers to be submitted to international academic conferences. Out of hundreds submitted, the conference had selected around 50 papers as award winners. It was concluded with a tour to a famous ancient irrigation works project. 🌿

Bix, Herbert P. *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*. HarperCollins 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 006019314x.

Ellis, Joseph J. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. Alfred A. Knopf 2000 \$26.00 Cloth 0375405445.

Gates, Henry Louis. *African-American Century: How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country*. Free Press 2000 \$30.00 Cloth 0684864142.

Morris, Roy. *Better Angel: Walt Whitman in the Civil War*. Oxford Univ Press 2000 \$25.00 Cloth 0195124820.

Kershaw, Ian. *Hitler, 1936-45: Nemesis*. W.W. Norton 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0393049949.

Horne, Gerald. *Race Woman: The Lives of Shirley Graham Du Bois*. New York Univ 2000 \$34.95 Cloth 0814736157.

Sugden, John, 1947-. *Blue Jacket: Warrior of the Shawnees*. Univ of Nebraska 2000 \$29.95 Cloth 0803242883.

Breger, Louis. *Freud: Darkness in the Midst of Vision*. John Wiley 2000 \$30.00 Cloth 0471316288.

Atlas, James. *Bellow: A Biography*. Random House 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0394585011.

Wolpert, Stanley. *Gandhi's Passion: The Life and Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi*. Oxford Univ Press 2001 \$27.50 Cloth 019513060x.

Summers, Anthony. *Arrogance of Power: The Secret World of Richard Nixon*. Viking 2000 \$29.95 Cloth 0670871516.

Thomas, Evan. *Robert Kennedy: His Life*. Simon & Schuster 2000 \$28.00 Cloth 0684834804.

Stout, Janis P. *Willa Cather: The Writer and Her World*. Univ Pr of Virginia 2000 \$35.95 Cloth 0813919967.

Woodward, Bob. *Maestro: Greenspan's Fed and the American Boom*. Simon & Schuster 2000 \$25.00 Cloth 0743204123.

Carter, Jimmy. *An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood*. Simon & Schuster 2001 \$26.00 Cloth 0743211936.

Marder, Herbert. *Measure of Life: Virginia Woolf's Last Years*. Cornell Univ Press 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0801437296.

Duiker, William J. *Ho Chi Minh*. Hyperion 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0786863870.

Mack, Robert L. *Thomas Gray: A Life*. Yale Univ Press 2000 \$39.95 Cloth 0300084994.

Lippman, Thomas W. *Madeline Albright and the New American Diplomacy*. Westview 2000 \$27.00 Cloth 0813397677.

Tadie, Jean-Yves, 1936-. *Marcel Proust: A Life*; Trans. by Euan Cameron. Viking 2000 \$40.00 Cloth 0670876550.

Todd, Janet M., 1942-. *Mary Wollstonecraft: A Revolutionary Life*. Columbia Univ Press 2000 \$29.95 Cloth 0231121849.

Cooper, William J. (William James) *Jefferson Davis, American*. Alfred A. Knopf 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0394569164.

Rollyson, Carl E. (Carl Edmund) *Susan Sontag: The Making of An Icon*. W.W. Norton 2000 \$29.95 Cloth 0393049280.

Worster, Donald, 1941-. *River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*. Oxford Univ Press 2001 \$35.00 Cloth 0195099915.

Kuehn, Manfred. *Kant: A Biography*. Cambridge Univ 2001 \$34.95 Cloth 0521497043.

Service, Robert. *Lenin: A Biography*. Belknap/Harvard 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0674003306.

Cooper, Barry, 1949-. *Beethoven*. Oxford Univ Press 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0198165986.

Schlesinger, Arthur Meier, 1917-. *Life in the Twentieth Century: Innocent Beginnings, 1917-1950*. Houghton Mifflin 2000 \$28.95 Cloth 0395707528.

Cottrell, Robert C., 1950-. *Roger Nash Baldwin and the American Civil Liberties Union*. Columbia Univ Press 2000 \$34.50 Cloth 0231119720.

Taylor, Jay. *Generalissimo's Son: Chiang Ching-Kuo and the Revolutions in China and Taiwan*. Harvard Univ Press 2000 \$39.95 Cloth 0674002873.

Underwood, Thomas A. *Allen Tate: Orphan of the South*. Princeton Univ 2000 \$35.00 Cloth 0691069506.

Meyers, Jeffrey. *Orwell: Wintry Conscience of a Generation*. W.W. Norton 2000 \$29.95 Cloth 039304792x.

Davis, Kenneth Sydney. *FDR: The War President: 1940-1943, A History*. Random House 2000 \$39.95 Cloth 0679415424.

Levine, Suzanne Jill. *Manuel Puig and the Spider Woman: His Life and Fictions*.

continued on page 77